

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for their bottom line, or of what reflects their owners' political interests, rather than the kind of real news coverage that we need and expect in a democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

These are very difficult and dangerous times that threaten our very ability to be a democracy. This is behavior that is more akin to what you would expect from State Radio in Eastern Europe, than from what are supposed to be free airwaves in a free country.

Thank you.